

(c) The Moon. The great purpose of this topic was to show pupils that by thoughtful observation many interesting problems could be solved, and to stimulate them to find out about some of the wonders of creation which are so often taken as matters of course. The pupils were to make observations and drawings, and then by wise questions the teacher was to lead them to suggest causes for the apparent double motion of the moon and for its change in appearance. This topic proved both a brilliant success and a dismal failure. In a few cases it was simply astonishing how readily the pupils—without being told anything—came to a clear understanding of the motions and phases of the moon, but in others very little was accomplished. On the whole, while the chief object was not always attained, so much interest was aroused that no doubt the moon will be looked upon by the pupils very differently in the future.

(d) Evaporation and Condensation. An effort has been made to arouse wonder in the children's minds, so that they may desire to understand all they see. Thus when it snows, the wish to know why it snows, where snow comes from, how it got there, and many other queries would naturally arise. These studies were taken up in order that such questions should be answered. The results were fairly satisfactory, though in a few cases the desire of the teacher to tell, worked somewhat against complete success.

(e) Stars. The senior grades were helped to find a few of the prominent constellations and to recognize some of the brighter stars. This proved most successful. The purpose was to arouse interest and the pupils, on the whole, were delighted with the work. It was almost amusing, too, to notice how the teachers seized upon this topic as something they could do, something tangible, something requiring explanation; and, with this, the poorest Nature Study subject we have taken up, they felt quite at home.

From the above an idea of what we are attempting may be gathered. During the coming months we hope to do a great deal of most interesting work. Birds, flowers, insects, the weather, and much else will receive attention. Special work will be: seed germination and experiments on the growth of plants; insect study, such as of the ant, with experiments suggested by the pupils; a flower-growing competition, and, not least, aquaria-keeping, with particular study of such creatures as mosquitoes, dragonflies, toads, and almost anything which the class may propose.

Having now touched upon what has been done in our schools, it may be well to mention some of the difficulties that had to be faced.